

AETC News Clips



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12 Oct 01

Express-News: America Targets Terrorism **Taliban get 2nd chance**

By Gary Martin

Express-News Washington Bureau

Web Posted : 10/12/2001 12:00 AM

WASHINGTON — President Bush said Thursday night that the United States is making substantial progress in the war on terrorism and offered the Taliban a second chance to turn over Osama bin Laden and halt the bombing.

"We're mounting a sustained campaign to drive the terrorists out of their hidden caves and to bring them to justice," Bush said during the first prime-time news conference of his new administration.

He told the Taliban that if they surrender bin Laden and al-Qaida terror network leaders, the United States would reconsider its military offensive.

The goal of the onslaught remained "bringing the al-Qaida network to justice" rather than destroying the Taliban, Bush said.

"If you cough him up and his people today, we'll reconsider what we're doing to your country," he said.

"You still have a second chance. Just bring him in. And bring his leaders and lieutenants and other thugs and criminals with him," the president added.

Bush addressed the nation just hours after the FBI issued a warning that additional terrorist attacks could occur within several days.

The president said the blanket alert was issued on a general threat received by the government.

Bush then urged his "fellow Americans to go about their lives."

"The American people have got to go about their business. We cannot let the terrorists achieve the objective of frightening our nation," Bush said from the East Room of the White House during a 40-minute give-and-take with reporters.

Earlier, Bush marked the one-month anniversary of the savage suicide attacks in New York and Washington with a memorial service at the

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Pentagon.

The news conference and memorial services came as the fifth day of sustained airstrikes and strategic bombing were carried out in Afghanistan.

Pentagon officials said the massive daily bombings were targeting al-Qaida, bin Laden and the ruling Taliban who have harbored them.

Bush said the weeklong aerial bombardment by U.S. and British forces has put al-Qaida and bin Laden "on the run."

"I don't know if he's dead or alive. I want him brought to justice, however," Bush said.

Bush said he could not predict when the multifaceted war on terror would end.

"It may happen tomorrow. It may happen a month from now. It may take a year or two. But we will prevail," he said.

In addition to the military strikes, Bush said the United States and other countries have frozen \$24 million in assets of the Taliban, al-Qaida and other suspected terrorist networks.

More than 62 nations have moved to block funds of 27 specific individuals, he said.

The president invited other nations, including Syria, which the United States has accused of supporting international terrorism, to join the coalition of nations in the fight against terrorist networks.

"I believe in results," Bush said. "And if you want to join the coalition against terror, we'll welcome you in."

On the homefront, Bush said the investigation into the attacks of Sept. 11 has led to the interrogation of more than 600 people.

He said the information gathered could lead to the disruption of any potential attack on America.

The president is prodding Congress to pass an economic stimulus package that includes tax relief to boost the economy, which was dealt a crippling blow when terrorists struck. Bush urged lawmakers to pass an energy bill that reduces U.S. dependence on imported oil.

Vice President Dick Cheney has remained in an undisclosed location in recent days, a fact Bush acknowledged with humor.

"I shook hands with the vice president in the Oval Office today, welcomed him out of his secret location," Bush said to laughter. "He's looking swell."

Bush delivered his progress report as Americans paid tribute to the victims

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Bush delivered his progress report as Americans paid tribute to the victims of the attacks one month ago that felled the twin towers of the World Trade Center in New York and left a gaping hole in the Pentagon.

"The attack took place on American soil, but it was an attack on the heart and soil of the civilized world," Bush said.

"And the world has come together to fight a new and different war, the first, and we hope the only one, of the 21st century," he said.

Earlier in the day Bush and first lady Laura Bush attended a memorial service at the Pentagon to commemorate the victims and American heroes.

The ceremony, "United in Memory," was held under a sun-dappled sky. Participants bowed their heads in prayer during the invocation.

"We do not forsake our destiny now," Maj. Gen. Lorraine Potter, chief of Air Force chaplains, said before the singing of a hymn by thousands who gathered outside the Pentagon.

Amid the relatives of those who died were former President Clinton and Sen. Hillary Clinton, D-N.Y., Secretary of State Colin Powell and other members of the Bush Cabinet.

Another ceremony was held on Capitol Hill, where congressional leaders paid tribute to the victims in Washington and New York.

"Our thoughts and prayers are with the families and all of their loved ones and friends who have suffered so much in this," said House Democratic Leader Dick Gephardt, D-Mo.

Lt. Gen. John Van Alstyne, a deputy assistant secretary of defense, spoke for the victims' families. Alstyne said the families' message was a simple one: "Only that their loved ones' service and their sacrifice be remembered."

The president folded his arm and hand over his heart at the sounding of taps by Marine Sgt. Scott Gearhart.

Capt. Abdul-Rasheed Muhammad, an Army chaplain, read a passage from the Koran.

Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld said that out of the act of terror, which killed so many, "will surely come a victory over terrorism."

"This victory, their victory, we pledge today," Rumsfeld said.

Bush closed his news conference with a gesture aimed at highlighting the administration's efforts to distinguish between the guilty and the innocent in Afghanistan.

The president called upon American children to donate a dollar apiece to a

NEWS

Hearst Newspapers has assigned a team of reporters and photographers to Asia for special coverage.



Edward A. Ornelas, Express-News staff photographer.



Dudley Althaus, Houston Chronicle's Mexico City reporter.



Jim Michaels, Albany-Times Union assistant managing editor.

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special relief fund to provide medical help and food for the children of Afghanistan.

He asked that the money be sent to the White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20500.

"Ultimately," he said, "one of the best weapons, one of the truest weapons we have against terrorism is to show the world the true strength of character and kindness of the American people."

gmartin@express-news.net

Hearst Newspapers Writer Stewart M. Powell contributed to this report

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Express-News: America Targets Terrorism

Texans map defense strategy

By Peggy Fikac

Chief, Express-News Austin Bureau

Web Posted : 10/12/2001 12:00 AM

AUSTIN — A task force studying the state's ability to thwart terrorist attacks identified gaps in the safety net at its first meeting Thursday, but officials said Texas is prepared to respond to threats.

"We don't know where all the holes are, but there are holes, and there are areas for improvement," said former federal judge William Sessions of San Antonio, vice chairman of the Governor's Task Force on Homeland Security.

Sessions, the former FBI director, said Texas also has examples of excellence including a famous disaster-response team.

"I would say, yes, we are prepared," he said. "But that doesn't mean we cannot be better, and it does not mean that we will not have very serious suggestions to the governor."

Among shortcomings was an assessment that just 20 percent of infectious diseases in some areas may be reported as required by law. That could hamper response to terrorist-launched disease.

"We need the ability to detect that something's going on. This isn't going to be a 'flash, bang' like a bomb or a plane or even a chemical event," said Dr. Dennis Perrotta, chief of the bureau of epidemiology at the Texas Department of Health.

"In these circumstances, any delay — hours — will mean lives. And so the fastest reporting that we can get is essential, and we don't have the staff to go out there to do that," said Perrotta.

Moreover, a quarantine would be a struggle because of the state's inexperience in such action and questions about how far local law officials should go in enforcing it, he said.



Assistant Chief Mike Miller from the San Antonio Fire Department speaks about the status of local government preparedness.
Express-News Photo/ Tom Reel

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Adjutant General Daniel James III of the Texas National Guard said the state also needs a second quick-response Guard team to analyze chemical and biological attacks. The state now has one team, based in Austin.

Sessions and Land Commissioner David Dewhurst, the task force chairman, said plans are needed for long-term training of local officials.

"It was obvious that there is limited planning for the future, for a continuation of training," Sessions said. "The president of the United States has made it very clear this is a long-term matter."

The importance of additional training was emphasized by front-line officials, including Assistant Chief Mike Miller of the San Antonio Fire Department. He was among several local government officials from around Texas who spoke to the task force.

"They're going to be needed more and more," Miller said of the state-coordinated classes.

Like Austin Police Chief Stan Knee, Miller said local law enforcement has been kept busy since the attacks with calls from people concerned about suspicious packages.

Miller said there were six such calls in the previous 24 hours in San Antonio, including one about a white powder found at the Municipal Plaza Building. The powder was determined not to be hazardous, he said.

Even as the task force continues its meetings around the state, Dewhurst said recommendations will quickly be made to Gov. Rick Perry, who named the group.

"This is no typical government task force in which we'll turn in a product six months from now when it might be too late. We are very interested in plugging any holes we see," Dewhurst said.

Officials emphasized that Texas has long been developing and refining programs to detect, prevent and respond to attacks.

The Texas Department of Public Safety launched its terrorism preparedness program after the 1995 bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City.

"Texas faces a lot of natural disasters each year. We have a tremendous body of preparedness," Dewhurst said. "We now have a different type of threat, a threat from men and women that we aren't used to having to fight against, but we will get there."

pfikac@express-news.net

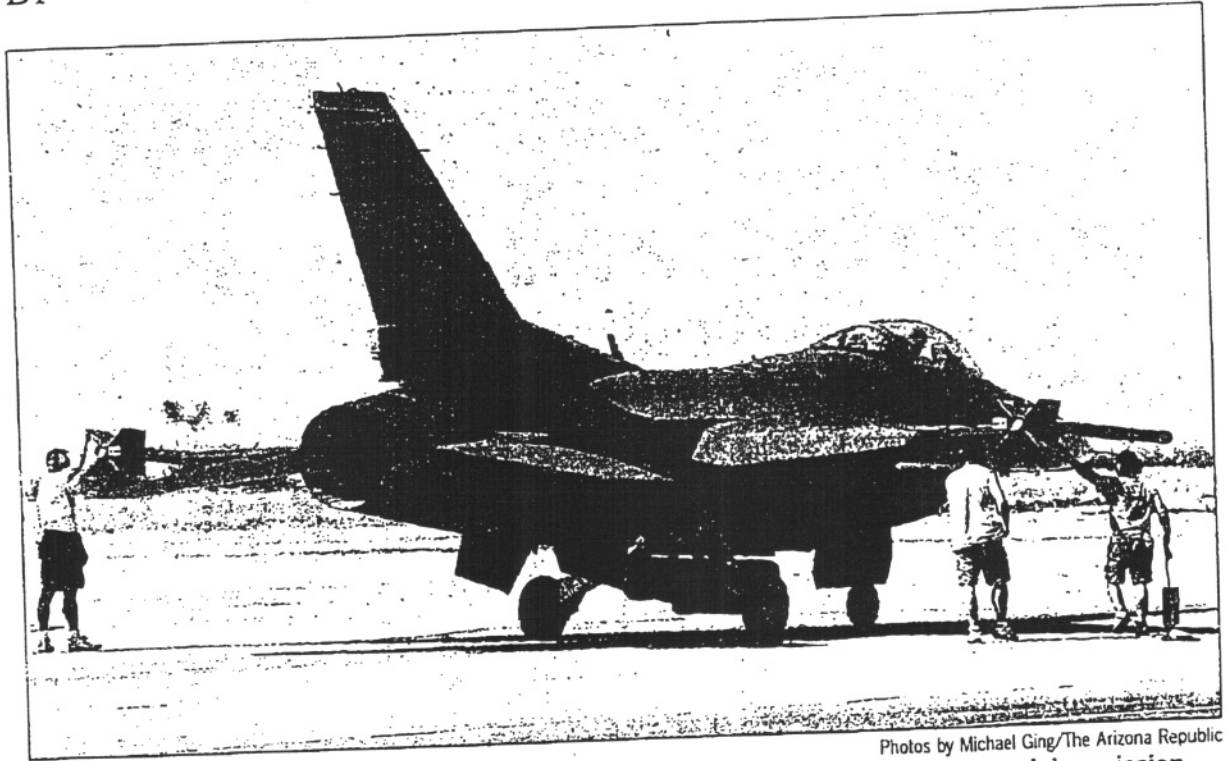
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BASES

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Compiled by AETC Public Affairs

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Photos by Michael Ging/The Arizona Republic

An F-16 fighter jet gets a final pre-flight inspection before taking off from Luke on a training mission.

Luke wing is 'pumped up'

Base trains crew,
pilots on the F-16

By David Madrid
The Arizona Republic

It's a different kind of war the country finds itself in, but any F-16 pilots who participate will have been trained at Luke Air Force Base and will be ready to fight, said Brig. Gen. Stephen Sargeant, the 56th Fighter Wing commander.

"The morale couldn't be higher on this base," Sargeant said. "Our fighter pilots and our crew chiefs and all those who support the instruction of our students are really pumped up, and they want to make sure our pilots and crew chiefs and the rest of the warriors at Luke Air Force Base are ready to do their mission when called upon."

Luke, located in the West Val-



Brig. Gen. Stephen Sargeant says the morale at Luke Air Force Base "couldn't be higher."

ley, is the largest active-duty F-16 training base. It trains about 1,000 fighter pilots and 1,000 crew chiefs every year. Crew chiefs, who range in age from 19 to 26, are responsible for the mechanical performance of the \$19 million to \$25 million jets.

Pilots complete seven months of training at Luke and then typically are assigned to a base, where after 30 days they are

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View an animated graphic of the initial strikes on Afghanistan at links.azcentral.com.

ready to fly F-16 missions.

Luke hasn't changed the way it trains pilots since the World Trade Center and the Pentagon were attacked Sept. 11, Sargeant said. But because of the type of war that is being waged, he acknowledged that pilots must be prepared for the possibility that they may have to shoot down a commercial airplane.

He said the attacks reminded the 8,000 people at Luke that they are there to keep the country free.

"There's not one person I've met here in the last three and a half weeks who hasn't gotten that message loud and clear," Sargeant said.

Surprise Independent

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Proud of Luke AFB

This is in response to all the detrimental letters about the air base. Let me say that it is these people in our military who give you all your freedom. Luke AFB was here long before you or I were. When you moved to Surprise you knew the base was here, so if anyone should leave, it is you. My husband is in the military and I am very proud of him and all the other Air Force personnel. They are all willing to fight and maybe die for their country so you can keep your freedom, so stop whining and get out of town if you don't like it.

Also in response to the ridiculous comment (*Surprise Independent*, Oct. 3-9, 2001) that Luke was unable to stop the Sept. 11 attacks, how on earth could they do that? We are thousands of miles away and no one could have known that this disaster was going to happen. Neither the president nor the FBI knew so that comment is completely ludicrous. Were you here 55 years ago when the base opened? I suspect not, so you move. The military is a great career. Not to mention what a huge source of employment and income the base provides to Surprise and other areas around here. So next time you hear the jets overhead just remember it is those brave people who will fight so you can keep your freedom and enjoy all the luxuries that we are lucky to have. God Bless America.

...

This is to all the yellow-belly sapsuckers who want Luke Air Force Base closed because of the excessive noise. Well, where are you now? Have not heard anything from you yellow-bellies lately. Have you gone into hiding with that pathetic piece of human waste, bin Laden? Let's hear from you. What's your plan to defend your freedom and property? We now know that terrorism can strike anywhere, and we know that noise of our protector roaring above won't kill you. We should be grateful that we live near a military installation that has the equipment and warriors to protect us. I ask that you step up to the plate and accept our military neighbor as a guardian of peace. Do this and I will retract the title: Yellow-Belly Sapsucker and replace it with "patriotic Americans."

...

After the terrorist attack of Sept. 11, Luke Air Force Base was put on strict alert. Almost immediately local military retirees started complaining about the inconvenience of lost shopping privileges on the post, as if it was their God-given right. They even complained to the media and Arizona congressional delegates. They probably fly the flag on their shopping carts.

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Jet noise still irritates

Well I can see the recent terror attacks have brought not only the best out in people, but the worst. To the individual who advocates using the hydrogen bomb — are you insane? Or is your irrational statement the result of your blind anger? I'll give you the benefit of the doubt and blame your anger. Otherwise, it scares me to think of you as a neighbor. By the way, with the anger and/or irrational thoughts you possess, you would feel right at home with the terrorist groups. To all the folks who are asking if us residents who are affected by the jet noise from our "good neighbor" Luke AFB should be complaining, I guess the fact that Luke has increased the number of flights, lowered the altitude of the planes, refused to alter the flight paths even slightly or to stop using afterburners over residential neighborhoods and now fly even later at night (all after I bought my home) matters not, since we are in "a war." I guess that makes us acceptable "collateral damage." Maybe, as the Base Closing Committee has suggested, bases need to be closed, so that additional monies can be allocated to the fight against terrorism.

Move military target

The people who get warm fuzzies sitting next to a military target crack me up. This is the jet age folks, F-16s could be based 300 miles from us and we would be even safer than we are now. Unfortunately, there would be no PX.

**Air Force jets:
Sound of freedom**

I read the *Peoria Independent* each time we receive it, front page to the back page. I am very interested in the comings and goings of our great city and surrounding cities.

The tragedy of Sept. 11 has left me brokenhearted like most of our good citizens. I still find it hard to comprehend that any human being could create and duplicate such hatred toward a nation that has been there to help their people over the years. But that is not what my letter is about.

I am writing about the opinions of many that have insistently objected to the noise level of Luke Air Force Base and the jets that have flown overhead.

I live in the north part of Peoria where the jets fly directly over our home. We have two children who enjoy the jets, noise and all. When a bomber or a "hamburger" plane comes by, they run in to get us to come and see. These have been the greatest sights for our kids.

Let me tell you that after Sept. 11 when the sound of the

jets had ceased, I had two children whom not only were bewildered, but my son actually stated that he could not sleep because something was not right.

I went out many an evening, looking into the north skies hoping to hear the sound of the jets, knowing that each jet symbolized my family's safety and freedom.

You can't imagine the sound of relief and security when the jets began their path again. We would go outside, pull up our evening chairs and watch the jets taking their path back home. My son stated, "Mom, I feel safer now and I can finally sleep at night."

Those who think the noise level is unbearable and indescribable should have given it careful thought before purchasing a home in the path of an airport. But this, of course, is another subject that I am sure has been debated with heated breath.

I am very thankful for those jets and will never cease to look to the sky and see how these beautiful birds of strength are protecting the freedom that I so love.

Be thankful, not critical. We may find ourselves hiding from other birds of prey that caused great destruction and grief to our families and friends on the East Coast if we find inconvenience more important than a sanctuary of safety.

NANNETTE FLORES
PEORIA

Step up the base defense

► VDA eyes Vance's chances of exemption from closure process

By Robert Barrow
Staff Writer

The defense appropriations bill approved by the U.S. Senate calls for another round of base closings in 2003. The House version of the bill does not include such language. The final version will be worked out in a conference committee. The Bush administration favors another round of base cuts.

Trustees Mike Cooper and Ross Dillon were named co-chairmen of Partners in the Sky, a group created before the last round of base closings to work to enhance Vance. Partners in the Sky addresses specific needs at Vance.

Several vice chair positions also were created Wednesday.

Bill Pennington was named vice chairman to head the education division; Shelley White, legislative; Bob Berry, quality of life; Brad Baker, community support; David McCoy, veteran affairs; April Darnahay, media; Jon Blankenship, economic analysis; Rob Stallings, environment; Bob Limes, military data; and

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Bill Gambile, municipal affairs.

Blankenship will prepare an economic analysis for Enid and northwest Oklahoma, and VDA also may retain outside military experts.

One of the main issues to be discussed during the next base-closure round, Cooper said, will be protection of airspace. He told the VDA preventing encroachment of airspace is essential. A measure Cooper proposed for consideration by the Enid City Commission concerning protection of Vance airspace is being studied by City Attorney Carol Lohman. The committee supported a resolution recommending the commission approve the measure.

City officials recently set an election for Dec. 11 to approve a quarter-cent sales tax extension that would raise more than \$700,000 for renovation of Eisenhower Elementary School. The school is located on Fox Drive next to Vance, and an estimated 60 percent of its students live on the base. Improvements to the school have been singled out as necessary during previous base-closure rounds.

Passage of the issue is important, Cooper said, and the VDA also voted to support the measure. City commissioners have called it an economic development measure.

A statewide commission on base closures was established by the Oklahoma Legislature, and Cooper is a co-chairman of that group. Other Enid members are Bob Berry and State Rep. Curt Roggow.

Cooper told the VDA many state associations already have consultants employed. Mississippi, he said, approved a bond issue that can be used to make whatever improvements are needed to the state's military bases.

During the last closure round, the state of Oklahoma provided only \$100,000 to help military communities hire consultants.

The Legislature and Gov. Frank Keating, he said, may be more involved during this round, possibly authorizing state bonds similar to the Mississippi project.

Local strategy will concentrate on consolidation efforts, more than closings, Cooper said.

"Our ability to do joint training will be a plus, and Vance is the only base training Air Force, Navy and Marine pilots," he said.

Although another round of closures is controversial in Congress, Cooper thinks there will be one in either 2003 or 2005, and 2003 would be more beneficial to Vance.

In a conference call to Vance, consultant A.I. Reskovic in Washington, D.C., told the committee terrorists attacks have changed priorities somewhat, but the Blann Road project at Vance probably will be included in this year's defense spending package. Funds for a logistics center at Vance are uncertain.

Since the last round of base closures, a new housing project at Vance has been moved from 2005 to 2004.

Mayor Doug Franz told the committee an important issue for the future will be beautification. He said making Enid as attractive as possible for the next inspection round is important. Gambile is beginning to work on that project, he said. Eyesores may be brought to the attention of Craig Stokes, public works director. "Quality of life and infrastructure have always been our game," Cooper said.

Although Vance Air Force Base could be withheld from consideration during another round of base closings, an Enid group began preparing to step up defense of the facility during a meeting Wednesday. Vance Development Authority discussed possible changes in a future base-closure round since the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on New York and Washington, D.C. U.S. Sen. Jim Inhofe, R-Okla., has suggested core services within the military be withheld from consideration. Since Vance is a pilot training base, VDA members discussed whether Vance could be one of those exempt bases.

"Our ability to do joint training will be a plus, and Vance is the only base training Air Force, Navy and Marine pilots."

—Mike Cooper

VANCE AFB OK
The Enid News & Eagle, October 11, 2001

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Rumsfeld considers command shakeup

Terror fight is raising possibility

By THOMAS E. RICKS
WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON — Less than a week into the war in Afghanistan, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld is contemplating a sweeping overhaul of the way the armed forces are organized to fight because of concern that the current structure is too balkanized to execute a global campaign against terrorism, senior defense officials said Wednesday.

Under the current structure, the Pentagon divides the world into regional commands and gives the officers in charge considerable autonomy in planning and conducting any military action in their areas.

As U.S. commander for the Mideast during the Persian Gulf

War, for example, Army Gen. H. Norman "Stormin' Norman" Schwarzkopf was the center of the war effort and other U.S. military commanders deferred to him.

The view of Rumsfeld and his top aides is that the regional approach is an inefficient and even dangerous way to organize the armed forces for the murky, multifaceted, sprawling new war against terror, officials said.

"The campaign against terrorism really highlights why we have to look at the Unified Command Plan," said a senior defense official, referring to the formal title for the way the Pentagon divides up the world. "The war on terrorism is a global campaign," he noted, yet the Pentagon looks at the world as a series of geographical regions.

As a result, he indicated, transnational concerns, such as terrorism and weapons proliferation, haven't received adequate attention from senior commanders, who don't have the capabilities to coordinate with law en-

"The campaign against terrorism really highlights why we have to look at the Unified Command Plan."

SENIOR DEFENSE OFFICIAL

forcement or to track a threat from one continent to another.

The war in Afghanistan is overseen by Army Gen. Tommy Franks, the head of the Central Command, as the regional command for the Mideast and Central Asia is known.

However, the discussions inside the Pentagon are a strong signal that when the anti-terror campaign eventually moves beyond Afghanistan, command of it may be moved elsewhere.

Franks has been the target of some sniping in the Pentagon from officers who say his background as an artillery officer gives him little preparation for waging an unconventional war that relies heavily on Special Forces and air power.

An array of major changes is

under consideration.

To sharpen military focus on homeland defense, a new "Americas Command" that would be responsible for defending the Western Hemisphere is being discussed.

Some officials are urging the responsibilities of the Special Operations Command be broadened so it actually could carry out operations, instead of simply providing forces to regional commanders.

But the most radical and controversial change being contemplated is one that would move away from the current structure that for decades has divided the world among the four major regional commanders: Pacific Command, European Command, Southern Command and Central



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Rumsfeld ... cont'd

Command.

Though obscure to those outside the armed services, the four regional commanders in chief are dominating figures inside the military establishment. They usually are referred to as the "CinCs" (pronounced "sinks").

There are four other slightly less prominent commands that cover "functional" areas — space, special operations, strategic and transportation — as well as a hybrid organization, the Joint Forces Command, that has some leftover responsibility for the North Atlantic region and oversees innovation in the military.

For the military's most successful and ambitious officers, the two most prized jobs have been the Pacific and Europe commands.

The Central Command traditionally has been seen as a backwater, and yet that's where much of the action has been the past decade. It's based in Tampa, even though it handles

the Mideast, because the United States never has found a politically acceptable way of basing its headquarters somewhere in the region.

Among the possible changes Pentagon officials are considering is transferring responsibility for covert raids against terrorists or their supporters from the Central Command to the Special Operations Command.

An alternative would be to permanently move command of the war to a top officer in Washington, who would seek to oversee military activity in various regions and coordinate it with the efforts of the State Department, the Justice Department, and even the Immigration and Naturalization Service.

Whatever the changes eventually made, "You're going to see more Washington control of this war than in past (recent) wars," said one person, familiar with the discussions.

Rick Casey's column will resume Sunday.



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